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December 1975 - February 1976

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

December	Havana	First Congress of the Cuban Communist Party. According to a document to be submitted for approval at the Congress, Cuba will strengthen her allegiance and ties to the Soviet Union over the next five years, and will work to promote detente and encourage economic integration with Latin American and Caribbean countries. The document defines Cuba's foreign policy as "subordinate to the general interests of the victory of socialism, communism and national liberation." (To this end Cuba is already acting as proxy for the Soviet Union by sending troops and advisors to Angola. Likewise, Cuba has been actively pushing for Puerto Rico's independence at the UN and hosted a conference on "Solidarity with Puerto Rico" in September.) The Communist Party Congress will also ratify a new constitution which will institutionalize the Cuban party as the ruling party. There are also rumors that Castro will relinquish the Prime Minister's job to Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, long known as Moscow's man. However, Castro is expected to retain his position as secretary general of the party and thereby maintain political control of the country.
December 10-17	Worldwide	Human Rights Week commemorates the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the UNGA on 10 December 1948. Coincidental with this date Madame Andrey Sakharova will travel to Oslo to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for her husband who has been denied a visa on the spurious grounds that he possesses state secrets. Western communist parties have been particularly discomfited by these actions of Moscow. Last year Alexander Solzhenitsyn received the Nobel Prize for Literature, which was awarded to him in absentia and prior to his expulsion from the USSR.

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December

Moscow

CEMA Summit Meeting. Moscow abruptly postponed the scheduled November meeting, reportedly because of Soviet-Romanian disagreement over the conduct of CEMA-EEC relations. Further disagreement may arise over Soviet plans to have North Vietnam participate in CEMA, which would obviously arouse the ire of China. There is speculation that Moscow will use the CEMA meeting to reveal plans to have other CEMA members share its economic aid burdens.

Late November-January

Cambodia

Prince Norodom Sihanouk on tour of twenty African, Arab and European countries. Sihanouk's stature has been reduced to that of a traveling salesman for a regime which does not want him to return to his homeland. Sihanouk said that after his trip he would return to Peking for medical treatment. When Sihanouk left Peking in September, most of his entourage also left and took political asylum in various countries. He reportedly encouraged them to do so since he could not guarantee their safety in Cambodia.

December 8

Poland

Seventh Polish Communist Party Congress. CPSU Chairman Brezhnev and other East European party chiefs -- except Romanian leader Ceausescu -- will attend. CP chief Gierk is facing the most serious challenge to his political career since assuming power in 1970. Sporadic food shortages, especially meat, and the prospect of increased food prices have created unrest in the labor field. Soviet Premier Kosygin reportedly warned Gierk that he would be replaced if price increases were followed by strikes and riots. (Gierk came to power after Gomulka resigned because the Polish economy was so seriously disrupted by workers' riots over price increases and new incentive wage rules.)

December 26

China

Mao Tse-tung born, 1893.

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January 1976	East Berlin	Meeting of Drafting Committee of the European Communist Party Conference. The behind-the-scenes maneuvering by the Italian, the Yugoslav and Romanian CP's has frustrated the Soviets in their efforts to convene a European communist party conference. The Italians have insisted that they would not accept a final document unless it recognized the diversity in development of communist parties in Europe. Reportedly this will be the last session and a date will be set for the conference. There has been speculation that the date of the congress has already been agreed upon but that some parties refused to have it announced in order to obtain leverage in relation to the Soviets. The Soviets may now be willing to hold the ECPC after the 25th Congress in February. In this way they could then publicize the ECPC as a vehicle for ratifying the results of their own Congress proceedings.
January 18-19	Copenhagen	Meeting of Social Democratic Party Leaders. One of the major topics on the agenda will be relations of the Social Democratic Party with its counterparts in Portugal and Spain. Italy's political future, including the possibility of the PCI joining the government, is also likely to be discussed.
February 1-8	Italy	Socialist Party Congress. The main business of the Congress will be to outline PSI strategy for the 1977 national elections. The PSI has ruled out an alliance with the communists. Instead it has been intent on establishing its credentials as a major exponent of a Western European road to socialism and a truly democratic party in the Western sense.
February 25	Moscow	Secretary General Leonid Brezhnev will deliver the keynote address at the twenty-fifth CPSU Congress to be held on 25 February. Brezhnev's role at the Congress suggests that he will retain his leadership position in the party, despite previous speculation that he might step down -- or be forced aside -- for health reasons. We will keep addressees informed of further developments expected at the Congress as additional details become available.

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